



Eucryphia

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Robertson Environment Protection Society – to promote the protection and enhancement of the Robertson Environment
PO Box 3045, Robertson NSW 2577 www.reps.org.au

REPS Meeting

Speaker: Miles Lochhead

Friday 14th August, 7.30pm

Robertson Community Centre

Caalong Street, Robertson

“Waste Not, Want Not -An Old Adage?”



Miles Lochhead is the Manager of Resource Recovery at Wingecarribee Shire Council, he has worked in local government for fifteen years.

During this period, he has been involved with a range of projects including: Landfill Environmental Management Planning; Development/Tendering for 4 major Contracts; Concept Planning & Environmental Impact Statement for the Resource Recovery Centre at Moss Vale, and recently played a pivotal role in the South Western Sydney Councils Resource Recovery Project.

Miles has a Masters Degree in Applied Science (UWS Hawkesbury), has completed a short course in Solid Waste Management at UNSW and is a Member of the Waste Management Association of Australia (WMAA). In 2005 he travelled to Europe and Canada investigating background material for Wingecarribee Council’s Strategy ‘Toward Zero Waste’, assisted by a Waste Management Association Australia Travel Scholarship.

Miles worked in the agriculture sector for 15 years prior to moving into environmental management and still maintains an interest in growing things, particularly organic vegetables. He is also active in a local Climate Action group CANWin.

Miles has three adult children and resides with his wife Michelle at Mittagong in the Southern Highlands.

Miles’ personal objective is: *“To continue working in an environment-related field, striving for leadership and management excellence and focusing on the three sustainability cornerstones of Environment, Economy and Society.*

Miles will be discussing the impact of waste as an energy drain and commenting on local issues and future strategies.

All welcome, informal discussion, light refreshment, gold coin donation

Upcoming Events

Fri 14th August – REPS Talk ‘Waste Not Want Not’ Miles Lochhead, 7:30pm, Community Centre

Wed 19th August – NPA Talk ‘Bushfire Management’ by Kate Nicolson, 7.30pm CWA Hall MV, pg 7

Sat 29th August – CanWin Food Growing Workshop, 9am-5pm, WSC Theatre, see pg 5

Sat 17th October – NPA Special Event- Dingeldai Hut Reunion – bookings required, see pg 7

June REPS Talk

By Helen Tranter

Kanchenjunga, Joseph Hooker and the Origin of Species by Dr Peter Donaldson.

In June Dr Peter Donaldson showed his beautiful photographs and gave a very interesting talk about his 2 month trip to the Himalayas retracing Joseph Hooker's 1848 botanical expeditions, especially his interest in rhododendrons. As part of his extensive research Peter had access to all of Hooker's original little notebooks from the expeditions.

One of the small villages in the photographs was still almost unchanged from when Hooker saw it, with yak trains, and narrow log bridges over icy streams. Some of the glaciers have, however, retreated about 1 km since Hooker's time.

This talk was part of what will become two, one hour documentaries for TV to be shown at the end of this year or early next year. Not to be missed!

When Joseph Hooker was 21 he went as assistant surgeon, and the youngest member, on the 1839 James Ross Antarctic Expedition with the "Erebus" and "Terror". His great interest was in botany and he wrote the botanical reports of that almost 4 year long voyage which included the Kerguelen and Campbell islands. He was interested in the geographic distribution of the plants and kept lists of all the plants he saw, noting those that were endemic and those that overlapped in distribution. At a time before anyone knew about continental drift he thought there could have been land bridges, which had later sunk, between some of these places. Later, Darwin would ask Hooker to do the characterisation of the plants collected in the Galapagos.

A strong relationship developed between Darwin and Hooker and Darwin confided his ideas on evolution to Hooker who soon came to accept them. He became a major influence on Darwin and is the only person mentioned in the "Origin of Species".

In 1848 Joseph Hooker went to north India and the Himalayas. The British wanted to find out the height of the Tibetan plateau in eastern Tibet so the Rajah of Sikkim suspected Hooker was a spy but he managed to get access through Nepal and set out with 46 guides and porters.

In one valley Hooker sketched a pile of rocks 600ft (180m) high and wondered, in correspondence with Darwin, what could have caused this, thinking perhaps they could have been deposited by icebergs and this area might have once been at sea level. Darwin said that he thought it could have been a moraine from a glacier and suggested Hooker look for polished rocks which would confirm this. Hooker wanted to see what changes in vegetation might occur with changes in altitude and he what he found was that there were similar plants at similar altitudes on all the mountains 'like islands in a terrestrial sea'. Darwin had noted a similar situation in South America.

Hooker only saw Mount Everest twice in the distance and he measured it at 28,000ft (8,400m). (Very close to the actual 29,035ft/8,850m.) but thought K2 was the higher mountain. Hooker found a rhododendron, only a few centimeters high, growing at 18,000ft (5,400m) the highest altitude for any rhododendron. Hooker was, for the next 50 years, the only European who had gone up so high in the Himalayas. He later produced a 2 volume set of "Himalayan Journals" which were in general a very accurate account.

Hooker spent nearly 4 years in India, much of the time in Darjeeling and he discovered 25 new species of rhododendrons. One species, growing above 4,000ft (1,200m), is collected by local people to make incense; another - the biggest in the world *Rhododendron hodgsonii* - and one growing as an epiphyte on Himalayan cedars. In Nepal, Hooker collected what he described as 'the noblest species of the whole race - *R.dalhousiae*'.

After Nepal, Hooker went to Bengal where he began writing the 18 volume "Plants of British India" which came out in 1855. Notably, in this work he stated that plants in nature are warring with each other and changes in climate will favour one kind over the other. This was several years before Darwin put forward his ideas on natural selection in the "Origin of Species".

Joseph Hooker followed his botanist father, William Hooker, as director of Kew Gardens in 1865.

Obituary Roy Freere



Photo: Denis Wilson

Roy Freere, a dear friend of REPS, passed away on the morning of June 11, 2009. Roy joined REPS fifteen years ago and served as Vice President for four years, during which time he and his wife, Joan became closely involved in most of our activities. He shared with us his love of all things small and beautiful, particularly the fungi of the Robertson area. An expert microscopist, Roy took delight on World Wetlands Days showing children the interesting little creatures in Caalang Creek that could be seen through his microscope

A close associate of the local branch of the National Trust, Roy joined the REPS Subcommittee set up to rescue the Robertson Railway station from oblivion after its abandonment by State Rail. He was personally instrumental in persuading the National Trust to recognize the 1932 “depression style” concrete-slab railway station buildings as Heritage items. This initiative became the foundation of a number of government grants to restore the station to its initial state, renovate the old Fettle’s Shed as an Exhibition Gallery and landscape the grounds. The “Bush Garden” on the rise opposite the Reconciliation Garden contains a number of flourishing *Rapanea* that Roy planted. He interested Bert Flugelman in producing a model for the sculpture that now stands in the Railway Common as a memorial to the fettle’s who built the “Mountain Railway”. He photographed the rehabilitation history of the railway which he assembled in a number of precious albums that have proved to be a resource of great value to the current management.

In recent years, Roy’s interest turned to art, producing works of splendid quality, particularly photographic scenes of the local area, which he loved so much. Roy was a quiet achiever, willing always to lend his skills whenever asked and to share his interests with his many friends. His passing is a great loss to REPS and he will always be remembered.

David Tranter

End-of-life Televisions and Computers

The Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) is calling for submissions on its Television and Computer Product Stewardship consultation package. Relevant reports are available from the EPHC website:

- *Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement: Televisions and Computers - July 2009*
- *Code of Practice for Managing End-of-Life Televisions - July 2009*
- *Willingness to pay for e-waste recycling - July 2009 Statement on End of Life Televisions and Computers - Nov 2008*

The closing date for submissions is **close of business Thursday, 13 August 2009**.

Written submissions to: Ms Monina Gilbey, Project Officer, NEPC Service Corp, Level 5, 81 Flinders Street, Adelaide SA 5000. Tel: (08) 8419 1200 Fax: (08) 8224 0912 email: mgilbey@ephc.gov.au or complete their “Submission template - Television and Computer Product Stewardship Consultation Package”

<http://www.ephc.gov.au>

Sassafras Flowering

Photos and article by Denis Wilson

The Sassafras plants of Robertson (*Doryphora sassafras*) are having a heavy flowering season this year. The last time that they flowered heavily was three years ago, in 2006.



These flowers have an unusual flower structure, with the pollen-bearing structure, (the anthers), held very low down on the stamens. The stamens themselves are very prominent within the flower – as awn-shaped structures, but the pollen grains are at the base of these stamens.



Here is an image showing the stamens, in two anthers at the base of a single stamen.



Clearly Sassafras plants have evolved a method of pollination which is quite different from that used by most modern plants which hold their pollen high and prominent, to facilitate pollination by modern insects and birds.

I have read that Sassafras plants are pollinated by mosquitoes, but when they flower, in Robertson there are few Mosquitoes around. However, I have noticed swarms of midges and gnats, so perhaps they are the insect pollinators of Sassafras flowers in Robertson, either that, or moths. After all the sweet scent of the Sassafras flowers is not there for our benefit – no matter how attractive we might find it to be. Moths, with their large antennae are known to be very sensitive to scent. Having white flowers and sweet perfume is a formula used by many plants which are known to be pollinated by moths. And Robertson is well supplied with moths. Perhaps they are the pollinators of our Sassafras trees?

Denis Wilson regularly writes about local native plant species on his blog: [The Nature of Robertson.](#)

“Food growing in the Southern Highlands, Past, present and future”

An interactive workshop with eight formal presentations and facilitated sessions discussing food production and related issues.

When: Saturday 29th August 9am – 5pm

Cost: \$60 (Concession \$50)

Where: Wingecarribee Shire Theatre, Elizabeth Street, Moss Vale

The "Food Security" Seminar is convened by Harmony Community Farm and co-sponsored by Moss Vale Community Garden, Anglicare, and the local climate action group (CANWin). It will involve a range of speakers who are experienced growers of tree crops and other cool climate crops for the Southern Highlands and are producing food within a 100-mile radius. The point of the seminar is to educate the local residents and any other interested individuals about growing/buying local produce, the concept of food miles and global warming and the importance of local food supply for uncertain times.

Topics to be covered on the day:

- What is food?
- Past and present food production techniques.
- Food, food culture, including organic peasant farming and modern large scale food production.
- Local soils and climate and broader global issues.
- Food security and global influences.
- Self-sustaining communities, relocalising food production.
- Local case histories of Potato, Nut and Animal Products.
- Unusual local foods: their collection, storage and use.
- Facilitated discussions about food and the future of local food production and security.
- Trade display and promotion.
- Lunch and morning and afternoon tea will be provided. Local produce will be featured in the catering.
- On Sunday 30 August participants will have the opportunity to participate in a tour of local food growing initiatives.

Participants will receive a package of information including an electronic copy of the workshop proceedings, information on potential local crops and other local food initiatives. Online registration : www.harmonycommunityfarm.com

Enquiries (evenings): David Tranter 4885-1394 or Jill Cockram 4883-4399

You are cordially invited to attend the workshop

Backyard Chook Keeping

Back by popular demand is a second introductory workshop to be held by Jill Cockram on raising chooks in your backyard.

When: Saturday 26th September

Time: 9.45am to 3.00pm

Location: Harmony Farm, Canyonleigh

RSVP: Friday 18th September (limited spaces)

To register your interest, call Peter Still on 0402398181 or email

stillp@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

CANWIN

CANWin (Climate Action Now! Wingecarribee), a non-partisan community group, welcomes your participation in taking action to minimise climate change. www.canwin.org.au

By registering your email address you become an associate member and are enabled add comment to our Blog page. Or become a full member for \$20 per year, this gives you voting rights and the ability to add new topics to the blog page.

CANWin and Transition Shire Wingecarribee congratulate the people of Bundanoon and especially the Bundy-on-Tap steering group. www.bundyontap.com.au

Training for Transition workshop Bowral 8th & 9th August

“to inspire, encourage, & inform” people in the Transition process. Sandra at menteith@bigpond.net.au or phone 0403 790 777.

Letter to the Editor

In reply to Jim Foran (Eucryphia 102). I agree with some of what Jim said and believe his ideas are logical, have merit and deserve consideration. I do believe our moral duty lies to all species however and not just to our own species. In his letter, Jim states humans must share resources equally. I agree but would extend that sharing to all living forms. Ultimately this would require those in the majority world to reduce consumption and decrease global population. Our economy cannot be based on the continuous growth principal.

Young and idealistic
Monica Engel

Poetry Corner

Edited by Jonathan Persse

Please send a poem on the environment, written by yourself or another person, to Jonathan Persse, Sallyhill, Burrawang 2577.

Two English Poets, and two Australian, write of spring.

It was a lover and his lass,
With a hey, and a ho, and a hey nonino,
That o'er the green cornfield did pass,
In the spring time, the only pretty ring time,
When birds do sing, hey ding a ding, ding;
Sweet lovers love the spring.

from *As You Like It*,
act 4, scene 3

William Shakespeare
(1564-1616)

Be thou, Spirit fierce,
My sprit! Be thou me, impetuous one!

Drive my dead thoughts over the universe
Like withered leaves to quicken a new birth!
And, by the incantation of this verse,

Scatter, as from an unextinguished hearth
Ashes and sparks, my words among mankind!
Be through my lips to unawakened earth

from *Ode to the West Wind*, the
conclusion

The trumpet of a prophecy! O, Wind,
If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?

P.B. Shelley
(1792-1822)

At The Melting Of The Snow

There's a sunny Southern land,
And it's there that I would be
Where the big hills stand,
In the South Countrie!
When the wattles bloom again,
Then it's time for us to go
To the old Monaro country
At the melting of the snow.

To the East or to the West,
Or wherever you may be,
You will find no place
Like the South Countrie.
For the skies are blue above,
And the grass is green below,
In the old Monaro country
At the melting of the snow.

Now the team is in the plough,
And the thrushes start to sing,
And the pigeons on the bough
Sit a-welcoming the Spring.

So come, my comrades all,
Let us saddle up and go
To the old Monaro country
At the melting of the snow.

A.B. (Banjo) Paterson (1864-1941)

Buds

I gathered long, of buds of thought,
One here, one there-yea, everywhere;
I took them where my garden was,
And there I planted them with care.

And wanderers, passing idly by,
Looked up, looked in, to wond'ring see
How fair a thing a bud might grow,
How good a thing a thought might be.

And though some drooped at close of day,
And some grew hardly-frail and thin-
Yet is my garden fairer grown,
For these my buds I gathered in.

Mary Gilmore (1865-1942)

NPA Talk

Wednesday 19th August 2009, 7:30 pm
CWA Hall, Elizabeth St, Moss Vale

Bush Fire Management

A talk by Kate Nicolson, Bushfire Management Program Co-ordinator at the Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC).

Kate has a strong interest in fire ecology and has volunteer fire fighting experience. She represents NCC on various committees, including the Baulkham Hills Bushfire Management Committee (BFMC), the Bushfire Coordinating Committee (BFCC) and the Biodiversity and Fire Expert Reference Group (BFERG).

Kate will address bushfire issues and challenges including:

- fire issues of most concern in the Southern Highlands area
- challenges and attitudinal values in fire management
- relationships between fire management agencies, locals and land managers
- a synopsis of the latest NCC Bushfire Conference in June '09
- developments from the Royal Commission in to the Victorian fires in February '09

NPA Special Event—Dingeldei Hut Revisited - Saturday 17th October 2009

Yes, the Dingeldei Hut is alive and well!

With the vision and drive of the late Allen Strom and other members of the Caloola Club, such as Allan Fox, this hut was constructed on an Illawarra escarpment bench, south of Macquarie Pass on Tongarra Farm land, about 1950-1952.

This classic log cabin style hut served to “assist the Club in creating interest in the bushlands” * until 1958 when the Caloola Club amalgamated with the new National Parks Association who then acquired it as a field study hut. It was used until 1968 when the Tongarra Farm track access was denied.

In 2003 NPA Southern Highland Branch teamed up with Allan Fox to celebrate “50 Years of Tongarra” at the Hut (see NPA Journal October

2003). This event attracted over 33 NPA, REPS and various bushwalking club members who had used the hut over many years. As well as a joyful nostalgic experience for many, this event paid tribute to Caloola forefathers who saw the opportunity for bush encounters for people to treasure the natural environment and protect it for future generations.

Since 2003 many people have expressed the desire to return on an occasional basis. The October revisit will provide that occasion - courtesy of the owners. Today the Hut is in excellent condition thanks to them. They have maintained it and managed the surrounding natural values as many Caloolans would have remembered them. The magic backdrop of cliffs against the skyline and the deep green band of rainforest is all there.

NPA “Legend” Allan Fox again will be involved with us. Expect some fascinating recalls of those years when he was part of the Caloola/NPA/Fauna Protection Panel history, which is now being documented.

Access. The land owners have kindly allowed us to use their 4WD track. Those wishing to use the Caloola Pass or Butter Track Pass foot track, should advise the leader of their intention.

Numbers will be limited, so please contact Len Hainke as soon as possible. janlen@acenet.com.au or phone 4869-1040.

*words engraved on the hut door brass plaque circa 1950.

CTC Winter Sunday Series Cinema

An Afternoon with Sir Laurence Olivier

Introduced by Tony Williams on Sunday August 9, 2009 at 2pm.

An Afternoon with The Two Sterns

Composer and Broadcaster Andrew Ford introduces ‘From Mao to Mozart’ and ‘Jazz on a Summer’s Day’ on Sunday August 23 2009 at 2pm

Café opens at 1.30pm.

Adults \$10 children \$5 (CTC fund raiser)

Light refreshments available. BYO beer/wine.

Coming up in the Meet the Film Makers’ series September 26th ‘**Next of Kin**’, thriller, presented by director Tony Williams.



Caalang Creek Working Bees

Caalang Creek Working Bees are held on the last Saturday of each month from 9:30 am onwards subject to the weather. Please come and join us for as long as you are able.

The next Working Bees will be on the 29th August and the 26th September

Meet at the footbridge in Hampden Park. Don't forget water, hat and gloves. We now have tools available, but bring your own if you can.

Queries to Steve Douglas 4271 4957 or Leon Hall 4888 2222.

Help Care for Our Nature Reserve

**1st Wednesday of each month
10:00am to noon**

All welcome. Please bring garden gloves. For further information, phone Helen: 4885-1394

REPS Meetings for 2009

The remaining REPS Public Meetings for this year are listed below.

Each meeting will include a talk that will be publicised in the Eucryphia prior to the meeting.

Friday 14th August

Friday 9th October (walk, to be advised)

Friday 13th November (Annual General Meeting)

Wingecarribee Community Nursery

The Wingecarribee Community Nursery was established in 2008 to help local Landcare groups and landholders obtain quality locally sourced native plants for use in environmental projects.

The community nursery is involved in provenance seed collection across the Wingecarribee shire, the management of the catalogued seed bank database and the propagation and supply of native plants.

The nursery will be open on the first Saturday of the month.

Have a look at the new facilities including a heated propagation house which will be installed in August. For more information contact: Greg Bray 4860 3080 at Wingecarribee Shire Council

Welcome New REPS Members

Colin and Lee Windeyer

Call For Volunteers

The Robertson Community Technology Centre currently needs volunteers. We have positions available in the café and in the IT room. There are also positions available for event co-ordinators.

The CTC offers a great opportunity to get involved with the community and meet new people. The projects that can be taken on by the CTC are only limited by your imagination.

If you have an interest in volunteering at the CTC you can find out more on the website at www.robertsonctc.org.au or just drop in and see Monica from Wednesday to Saturday. The CTC is located opposite Murray Tractors on the Illawarra Highway, Robertson.

Contact REPS

All those who are interested in supporting our aim are welcome to join REPS. Our aim is to promote the preservation and enhancement of the Robertson environment. We welcome contact with individuals and other community groups. For further information and subscriptions please contact: The Secretary – Lynn Stevenson
PO Box 3045,
Robertson NSW 2577
or President – Leon Hall on 4888 2222

We are always looking for new contributions to Eucryphia. If you have an essay, article, poem or photograph that you would like to share with other REPS members please contact Monica Engel or Sheila McInnes

email: monicaengel@robertsonctc.org.au

All contributions will be most welcome.

Visit the REPS website

www.reps.org.au